JUL 1 1 2001 ZERANSMITTAL LETTER Docket No. **E**√General - Patent Pending) T2131-906639 In Re Application Stev MERCER et al. Group Art Unit Filing Date Examiner Serial No. 2831 10/18/00 09/690,997 MODULAR BACKPLANE FOR INDUSTRIAL COMPUTERS Title: TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS: Transmitted herewith is: **Preliminary Amendment** in the above identified application. \boxtimes No additional fee is required. is attached. A check in the amount of The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 50-1165 \boxtimes as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. Charge the amount of Credit any overpayment. Charge any additional fee required. \boxtimes W I Free Signature Dated: July 11, 2001 William L. Feeney - Reg. No. 29,918 Miles & Stockbridge P.C. I certify that this document and fee is being deposited 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500 with the U.S. Postal Service as McLean, VA 22102 first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 703-903-9000 20231. Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

cc:

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence



Docket No.: T2131-906639

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Steve MERCER et al. : Group Art Unit: 2831

Serial No.: 09/690,997 :

Filed: October 18, 2000 :

For: MODULAR BACKPLANE FOR

INDUSTRIAL COMPUTERS

McLean, Virginia July 11, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the subject application, as indicated below:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the title and before the first paragraph on page 1, insert the following heading at the left-hand margin:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION--

insert the following new paragraph at the left-hand margin:

--The subject matter of this invention is related to Provisional Application Serial No. 60/219,013, filed July 19, 2000. The subject matter of said application is hereby incorporated by reference.--;